Sociology Division – Graduation Project (GP) Guidelines

1. Sociology Majors have to successfully complete a Graduation Project (HS4099 – 8 AUs) as part of the requirements for the BA (Honours) in Sociology. The aim of the HS4099 Graduation Project is to provide training in independent scholarly work. With the guidance of a supervisor, each student will identify a research problem, formulate research questions, develop a theoretical framework and design a methodological approach. By the completion of the project the student will have gained experience in theoretical reasoning, empirical research (especially the collection, interpretation and analysis of data), and the writing and presentation of research findings.

2. The GP should include:

   ● a statement of the research question and significance
   ● a review of relevant literature
   ● a discussion of the research methodology used
   ● an analysis of the findings
   ● a conclusion, including a summary of the findings and a discussion of the significance and limitations of the research

3. The GP is an individual project. Each student will develop, carry out, and complete a research project under the direct guidance of one NTU sociology faculty member.

4. GP completion procedure:

   4.1 May 12th, 2017
   Students will be informed of the suggested general areas in which they can work on for their GP.

   4.2 Jun 5th, 2017
   Deadline for third year students to submit application for working on GP. In the application, students should indicate the general area in which their GP will fall. A template for the application form is provided on the Divisional website. http://www.hss.ntu.edu.sg/Programmes/sociology/Current%20Students/Pages/Graduation-Project-(FYP).aspx

   4.3 July 17th, 2017
   Supervisors for eligible students will be announced. Students are then required to work on the proposal under the guidance of the supervisor.
Only those students who are classified as “final” or “fourth-year” students by the time the GP begins are eligible to work on GP.

The criteria for eligibility are:

(A) Completed 95 Academic Units
(B) Completed all core courses (must be taken at NTU).
(C) Completed the required number of sociology prescribed electives for a grade. This is set at seven.

4.4 Aug 14th, 2017
Students submit a proposal, which should be signed by both the student and the supervisor. The template for the proposal is provided on the Divisional website, which students must follow. After submitting the proposal, students work on the GP under the guidance of the supervisor.

4.5 Sept 15th, 2017
Students should submit the completed Ethics Approval Form to the supervisor.

4.6 Nov 3rd, 2017
Students should report their progress to the supervisor with evidence of their accomplishment so far (what the problems are; what further steps to be taken etc.).

There is no standard format for this report. Your supervisor will award a grade for your report. The grade for this midterm evaluation is for the Division’s records and will NOT be carried over to the final grade. Students will receive an ‘IP’ (In Progress) grade at the end of the first semester.

4.7 Mar 2nd, 2018
Students should submit the following by this date:
(i) Two ring-bound hard copies of the GP to the Divisional support staff. To facilitate blind grading, hard copies should not have any identifying markers. Please do not include your name or supervisor’s name on the hard copies.
(ii) Upload a copy to the NTUlearn course website “HS4099 Graduation Project”.
(iii) A soft copy of the GP to the NTU Library.

For any late submissions, 2 percentage points of the final grade per day will be deducted. This is the final copy. Students are solely responsible for any errors in the paper.

5. GP paper format

5.1 Each paper should have a cover page, the template of which is provided on the Divisional website. The cover page should not be numbered.

5.2 The abstract of the paper should be put in the second page, which should be numbered as page 1. It should range from 100 to 150 words. 4-6 key words and a word count should also be provided in this page under the abstract. “Graduation Project Number” should also be provided on the top of the abstract page.

5.3 FOR THE SOFT COPIES ONLY, the third page can be acknowledgements. This is optional. This page should appear ONLY in the soft copies sent to the library and uploaded to NTULearn and NOT on either of the hard copies.

5.4 Table of Contents should be provided in the fourth page, or in the third page if there are no acknowledgements.

5.5 Length of the GP: The GP should NOT exceed 10,000 words, including table of contents, footnotes, tables, figures, references, appendices and the body of your report.

Interview schedule (i.e. list of questions) MAY be included in an appendix. If they are, they SHOULD form part of the word count. Interview transcripts should NOT be included in your report. You should use relevant quotes within the report, but please do not attach entire transcripts.

5.6 Title page, abstract page and the acknowledgement page should be printed single-sided. They DO NOT form part of the word count. The rest of the GP should be printed double-sided with 1.5 line-spacing, font 11, times new roman, and 1.25 inch margins.

5.7 The paper should use footnotes. Tables and figures should come after the text. The text should be followed first by tables and figures, and then references, and then appendices.

5.8 Citations in Text:
Basic form for citations in the text includes the last name of the author(s) and year of publication. Include page number when you quote directly from the work or refer to specific passages.

- If author’s name is in the text, follow it with the publication year in parentheses

  When Lareau (2003) studied…

- If the author’s name is not in the text, enclose the last name and year in parentheses:

  When the study was completed…(Abu-Lughod 1990)

- If the page number is to be included it follows the year of publication after a colon:

  … Pascoe (2007:89)

- For three authors, give all last names in the first citation in the text; afterwards use the first name and et al.; for more than three names, use the first author’s last name plus et al.:

  (O’Connor, Orloff and Shaver 1999) (Bhaskaran et al. 2012)

- Quotations in the text must begin and end with quotation marks; the citation follows the end quote mark and precedes the period.

  “In 1999, however, the data were reported by more specific job types which showed that technologically oriented jobs paid better” (Hildenbrand 1999:47).

5.9 Reference List (Bibliography):

References follow the text and footnotes in a separate section headed “References.” All references cited in the text must be listed and vice-versa. List references in alphabetical order by author’s last names.

5.9.1 Examples of References for books

One Author


Two Authors

Chapter in Book


5.9.2 Examples of References for journal articles:

One Author


Two or More Authors


5.9.3 Examples of References for magazines:


5.9.4 Examples of References for newspapers:


5.9.5 Examples of References for electronic sources:

6. Academic Integrity and Honesty

6.1 Students should abide by NTU’s Academic Integrity Policy. The University considers plagiarism, academic fraud and facilitating academic dishonesty as academic dishonesty. Students should re-familiarize themselves with the University’s guidelines on academic dishonesty before embarking on the GP project. The guidelines are available online at http://academicintegrity.ntu.edu.sg/ See also www.ntu.edu.sg/sao/home for the University Honour Code and Pledge.

6.2 Students are solely responsible for their GP work and should ensure that it is conducted in an honest way. If in doubt about what constitutes academic dishonesty, discuss with your advisor.

6.3 The University, the School, and the Division consider any form of academic dishonesty as a serious offense. Any student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will be penalized. The penalties are severe and may include failing the GP and expulsion from the university.

6.4 You are required to complete the Assignment Submission Declaration when you turn in your GP. Your GP will not be graded until this form is submitted.